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DEC 27 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are currently pending in this application with claims 13-18 cancelled, claims 6, and 7 withdrawn, and claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, and 11 amended herein. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

In the restriction requirement issued on November 27, 2006, restriction is requested between the following:

Group 1 – claims 1-12 allegedly drawn toward a “support structure or sleeve”; and

Group 2 – claims 13-18 allegedly drawn to a “method for manufacturing a spindle support”.

In response, applicant elects without traverse Group 1 – Claims 1-12.

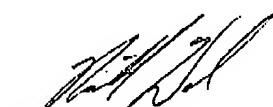
The communication indicated that if Group 1 were elected then further election of species was necessitated. Initially, there was an issue regarding the absence or presence of the inner tubular body 20 in claim 1 and its relation to claim 2. To obviate this issue and any potential confusion, claim 1 has been amended to substantially include the features of claim 2. As to the other alleged species distinctions, applicants have withdrawn the claims directed to roughening the structure and adding ribs (6 and 7, respectively). However, claims 9 and 11 recite merely different materials for application to the inner or second casing. As the mere indication of material preference is not believed to render these claims different species, withdrawal of the election request as to these claims is requested.

Finally, as it is believed that claim 1 is a generic claim from which all of the other claims depend, it is requested that upon finding claim 1 allowable, all withdrawn claims directed to alleged other species be reexamined and allowed as dictated by 37 C.F.R. 1.141.

Based on the foregoing response to restriction and election of species, claims 1, 3-5, and 8-12 are currently pending for consideration by the Examiner.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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